

**STUDENT-CENTRIC LEARNING CENTERS**

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill provides for the establishment of student-centric learning centers.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ allows a school district or charter school to establish student-centric learning centers to promote student engagement in learning by allowing the student to assemble customized courses tailored to the student's learning style;
- ▶ specifies requirements for student-centric learning centers, including facilities, equipment, and learning coaches;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to coordinate and provide support services for student-centric learning centers; and
- ▶ provides that a student who participates in a student-centric learning center may generate minimum school program funding.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2009.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53A-15-1201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**53A-15-1202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**53A-15-1203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**53A-15-1204**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**53A-15-1205**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**53A-15-1206**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**53A-15-1207**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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33 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

34 Section 1. Section **53A-15-1201** is enacted to read:

35 **Part 12. Student-Centric Learning Centers**

36 **53A-15-1201. Definitions.**

37 As used in this part:

38 (1) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

39 (2) "Learning center" means a student-centric learning center established in accordance  
40 with this part.

41 (3) "Low income" means an income below 200% of the federal poverty guideline.

42 Section 2. Section **53A-15-1202** is enacted to read:

43 **53A-15-1202. Student-centric learning centers - purposes.**

44 (1) A school district or charter school may establish a student-centric learning center as  
45 provided in this part.

46 (2) The purposes of a student-centric learning center are:

47 (a) to promote student engagement in learning by allowing a student to assemble his or  
48 her own courses tailored to the student's type of intelligence or learning style, while assuring  
49 that the customized courses meet state, school district, and school curriculum standards;

50 (b) to provide a student continuous and immediate feedback on the student's mastery of  
51 curriculum standards and learning objectives so that course work may be modified and  
52 corrections made in an expeditious manner; and

53 (c) to foster student development of 21st century learning skills, including using  
54 information and communications technology to gather and assess information, collaborate,  
55 innovate, think critically, and solve problems.

56 Section 3. Section **53A-15-1203** is enacted to read:

57 **53A-15-1203. Learning coach to facilitate student learning.**

58 (1) A school district or charter school that establishes a student-centric learning center  
59 shall assign one or more learning coaches to the learning center.

60 (2) A learning coach shall facilitate student learning by enabling and encouraging a  
61 student to:

62 (a) prepare customized courses using:

63 (i) a computer with installed learning management software;

(ii) user-generated content, both free and on a fee-basis;

(iii) tutoring tools that enable the student to master the subject and learning objectives;

and

(iv) integrated formative assessments and automatic remediation.

(b) incorporate into a customized course any type of learning media or online communications methodology such as chatting, blogging, or use of social networking sites;

(c) engage in user-generated, collaborative learning libraries where participants worldwide can instruct and learn from one another;

(d) learn at any time, place, and pace; and

(e) after a student develops a customized course, teach the course to other students.

Section 4. Section **53A-15-1204** is enacted to read:

**53A-15-1204. Facilities and equipment for a student-centric learning center.**

A school district or charter school that establishes a student-centric learning center shall provide:

(1) classroom space for the learning center at or near a school within the school district or the charter school;

(2) a laptop computer for each student;

(3) a high-speed Internet connection to the learning center;

(4) an Internet connection to a student's home if:

(a) the learning management software installed on the student's laptop computer does not facilitate offline learning;

(b) the student's family has a low income and cannot afford an Internet connection;

(5) a laptop computer for each learning coach; and

(6) ancillary equipment, such as a printer, disk storage, power backups, and caching servers, as required for optimal performance of the learning management system.

Section 5. Section **53A-15-1205** is enacted to read:

**53A-15-1205. State support and coordination of student-centric learning centers.**

The State Board of Education shall coordinate and provide support services to student-centric learning centers established by school districts and charter schools as follows:

(1) the board shall contract with a provider, selected through a request for proposals process, for learning management software to be installed on each student's laptop computer;

(2) the board may contract with one or more providers, selected through a request for proposals process, for online course content;

(3) the board shall establish a mechanism for collecting and storing customized courses for use by other students;

(4) the board shall provide professional development to learning coaches on:

(a) effectively using the learning management system software;

(b) motivating students to have an intrinsic drive to learn;

(c) effectively guiding students to create their own courses;

(d) incorporating state, school district, and school curriculum standards and learning objectives into course design and assessments;

(e) providing course templates and prompts to students in manner that does not diminish the student's intrinsic motivation to learn;

(f) guiding students to see the interrelated elements of different subjects;

(g) helping students to see the day-to-day applicability and usefulness of the content they are learning;

(h) helping students to sequence learning modules to build on each other; and

(i) sending content to a common database for ongoing and future use; and

(5) the board shall collect and disseminate best practices for student-centric learning centers.

Section 6. Section **53A-15-1206** is enacted to read:

**53A-15-1206. Procedure to establish a student-centric learning center.**

(1) To establish a student-centric learning center, a school district or charter school shall submit a proposal to the board.

(2) The board shall select proposals for implementation based on:

(a) the expertise and commitment of the proposers in fulfilling the purposes of student-centric learning centers; and

(b) the capacity of the board to support and coordinate learning centers.

Section 7. Section **53A-15-1207** is enacted to read:

**53A-15-1207. Funding of student-centric learning centers.**

(1) A student that participates in a student-centric learning center may generate minimum school program funding.

126            (2) The board shall deduct from a school district's or charter school's allocation of  
127            minimum school program monies fees for learning management software and course content  
128            purchased by the board and used by a student participating in a learning center.

129            Section 8. **Effective date.**

130            This bill takes effect on July 1, 2009.